[12th May 1954

Abolition of sales-tax on handloom goods.

* 690 *Q.*—SRI D. DASARATHAN (on behalf of Sri A. Ratnam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Union Government have sent any directive to the State Government that the sales-tax on handloom goods be abolished;

(*b*) if so, the contents of the directive;

(*c*) the amount of sales-tax collected by the State Government during the years 1950–52; and

(*d*) the schemes of the State Government to help weavers seeking State aid?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Yes. On the recommendation of the All-India Handloom Board, the Government of India requested this Government to abolish all tax on yarn and handloom cloth.

" (*c*) The revenue realized by way of tax on handloom cloth in the three years ending 31st March 1953 is given below :—

	RS.
1950–51	17,32,762
1951–52	15,63,079
1952–53	15,56,081

" (*d*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to starred question No. 319 put by Sri N. K. Palaniswamy, M.L.A., on 23rd March 1954."

Maintenance of the Villupuram-Gingee road by the Government.

* 691 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government propose to take charge of the maintenance of the road from Villupuram to Gingee in South Arcot district from the South Arcot District Board; and

(*b*) if so, when?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) There is no such proposal at present.

" (*b*) Will be considered on merits when the financial position permits it."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" In view of the heavy traffic on this road, will the Government consider the question of immediately taking over this road? If a census were to be taken either at once or some time afterwards within two or three months, it will clearly prove and convince the Government that it is very necessary to take up this road."

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" More important roads than that have been